

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 SSC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /054 W
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O R 280959Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6484
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE BEL
COMUSFORAZ

UNCLAS LISBON 5589

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PO
SUBJ: EANES DISMISSES SOARES

REF: LISBON 5578

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT EANES DISMISSED MARIO SOARES AS PRIME MINISTER LATE JULY 27 AND ASKED THE SOARES GOVERNMENT TO REMAIN IN PLACE UNTIL A NEW GOVERNMENT TAKES OFFICE. EANES IS TO BEGIN CONSULTATIONS JULY 28 WITH THE POLITICAL PARTIES ON FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY

1. EANES DISMISSES SOARES: PRESIDENT EANES ISSUED A STATEMENT JULY 27 ANNOUNCING THAT:
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-- HE HAD DISMISSED MARIO SOARES AS PRIME MINISTER DUE TO THE RUPTURE OF THE PS-CDS ACCORD ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT'S PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY WAS BASED;

-- THE NEED TO ASSURE CONTINUITY REQUIRES THE MEMBERS OF THE OUTGOING GOVERNMENT TO REMAIN IN PLACE UNTIL A NEW

GOVERNMENT TAKES OFFICE;

-- HE WOULD BEGIN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PARTIES JULY 28
TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT AND ADDRESS THE COUNTRY SHORTLY.

2. SOARES QUESTIONS TRANSITION ROLE: AFTER BEING RELIEVED AS PRIME MINISTER, MARIO SOARES TOLD THE PRESS THAT A DISMISSED PRIME MINISTER, AS OPPOSED TO ONE WHO RESIGNS, SHOULD LEAVE HIS POSITION IMMEDIATELY. SOARES SAID LATER, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE AS PRIME MINISTER UNTIL EANES'S DISMISSAL DECREE WAS PUBLISHED. THE CDS ANNOUNCED THAT ITS CABINET MEMBERS WOULD STAY ON UNTIL A NEW GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE.

3. CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTIFICATION: EANES CITED FOUR CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS IN HIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT AND CALLED IN A TEAM OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYERS TO CONFIRM HIS INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTION REGARDING DISMISSAL OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT. CARLOS MOTA PINTO, JORGE MIRANDA, AND MIGUEL GALVAO TELES AGREED THE PRESIDENT COULD DISMISS THE PRIME MINISTER AND ASK THE OUTGOING GOVERNMENT TO REMAIN IN PLACE ON AN INTERIM BASIS.

BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decapton Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PINT, PO, (SOARES, MARIO), (EANES, ANTONIO DOS SANTOS RAMALHO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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